

SECRET

D/FBIS Chrono

FBIS-0117/85
20 March 1985

Chief, Management Staff

DDS&T

Room 6E45 - Headquarters

For the report to the DCI.


C/E&PS/FBIS

1013 Key

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DDS&T/C/E&PS/FBIS:  (20Mar85)

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SECRETFOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICEOf Special Interest This Week

+ The Director, FBIS visited USIA on 19 March and at Director Wick's invitation participated in a USIA staff meeting. Director Wick was interested in Soviet media expansion and activities in terms of helping to make the case for better Congressional funding of USIA activities. D/FBIS also briefed Director Wick and his staff on aspects of the FBIS Modernization Program and how this program will benefit USIA. ☐

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+ FBIS learned that President Reagan was informed of the official announcement of Chernenko's death from an FBIS report. Rod McDaniel, Special Assistant to the President in Charge of the Crisis Management Facility, mentioned this during a briefing at FBIS last week. ☐

25X1

+ The FBIS ROSET installation in Panama marked another significant step forward in FBIS television monitoring with the coverage of Venezuelan President Lusinchi's live address to the National Congress. This was the first scheduled major event to be covered by the bureau from regular satellite television transmission, and demonstrates how satellite television can fill a coverage gap. Normal radio reception in Panama from Venezuela is very spotty. ☐

25X1

+ FBIS initiated the "Five Cities" foreign television reporting project on 19 March when the first tapes were sent from Hong Kong to Headquarters under the new program. The project is targeted at major world capitals designated by the DDI, with FBIS taping major television newscasts and special events each day for transmission to the United States by commercial courier service. This system will improve product timeliness for DDI analysts and is an interim measure until the FBIS INTERNET system becomes operational. ☐

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+ FBIS has received approximately 8,000 pages of unclassified Italian documents on the results of the investigation of the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II. In cooperation with other Agency components, FBIS will scan this material and approximately 13,000 additional pages not yet received to determine portions of intelligence interest which require full translation. The translations will be done by JPRS contract personnel. ☐

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